

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 EUR-08 IO-03 ACDA-10 SAJ-01

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PM-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SAM-01 /064 W

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O 120919Z OCT 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6551

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2066

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: ELEVATION OF HUA, PURGE OF RADICALS: TAMPERING WITH MAO'S
WORDS

REFS: (A) PEKING 2004 (B) PEKING 2029 (C) PEKING 2049, 2052,
2053, 2056, 2058

1. WE HAVE HEARD FROM THE BRITISH (PLEASE PROTECT CLOSELY)
THAT THE ARRESTED RADICALS -- WANG, CHANG, CHIANG, AND YAO --
ARE CHARGED, INTER ALIA, WITH FABRICATING MAO'S LAST QUOTE:
"ACT ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN." THAT THIS
CHARGE IS BEING LEVELLED AGAINST THE QUARTET STRIKES US AS
PLAUSIBLE. HANDLING OF THE QUOTE
HAS BEEN PECULIAR FROM THE BEGINNING -- THIS "LAST QUOTE" HAS NOT
APPEARED IN THE DAILY NEWSPAPER BOXES RESERVED FOR SAYINGS OF MARX,
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LENIN AND MAO FOR OVER A WEEK; IT LAST APPEARED IN THE

PEOPLE'S DAILY BOX ON SEPTEMBER 31, AND IN THE KWANGMING DAILY BOX ON OCTOBER 4, CONCURRENTLY WITH LIANG HAI SO'S TOUGH STATEMENT OF THE RADICAL POSITION BUILT AROUND THAT QUOTATION (REF A).

-- IT WAS INTRODUCED IN THE SEPTEMBER 16 JOINT EDITORIAL; BUT THAT EDITORIAL WAS NOT MADE PART OF THE OBLIGATORY STUDY MATERIAL.

-- HUA KUO-FENG DID NOT CITE IT IN HIS SEPT 18 FUNERAL SPEECH. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT (REF B), A WALL POSTER AT RADICAL CENTER TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY QUESTIONED THIS OMISSION.

2. WITH THIS IN MIND, IT SEEMS EVIDENT THAT THE REFERENCE IN THE OCTOBER 10 JOINT EDITORIAL TO "TAMPERING WITH" THE DIRECTIVES OF CHAIRMAN MAO IS IN FACT AIMED AT THE RADICAL QUARTET.

3. IN RETROSPECT, THE TWO ARTICLES AUTHORED BY LIANG HSIAO ON OCTOBER 7 -- ONE IN PEOPLE'S DAILY AND ONE IN KWANGMING DAILY -- MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE SWAN SONG OF THE RADICALS QUARTET. LIANG'S PIECE IN PEOPLE'S DAILY HAD ENDEAVORED TO DOCUMENT THE CHARGE THAT TENG, AND "SOME PERSONS" LINE TENG, HAD REVISED, EMASCULATED, AND QUOTED OUT OF CONTEXT MAO'S SAYINGS TO SERVE THEIR OWN PURPOSES. THIS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN A REBUTTAL BY THE LEFT TO THE ACCUSATION THAT THEY HAD FABRICATED MAO'S LAST QUOTATION TO SERVE THEIR OWN ENDS.

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